

GHANBARI et al
U.S. National Phase of PCT/GB2003/004996

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please insert the Abstract of the Disclosure which is on the attached sheet.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Compressed recorded video is to be transmitted over a variable bit-rate link, using bandwidth reservation. In order to determining the transmission rate that is to be used (and reserved) at any given time, in such a way as to make the two match so as to minimise wasted bandwidth, the data stream is split into chunks chosen such that the average bit rate for the chunk as a whole is no less than the average bit rate for any shorter chunk starting at the same point. The chunk can then be transmitted using this average rate without any buffering problems. Preferably one chooses chunks so that the average bit rate for the chunk is no less than that for any shorter or longer chunk starting at the same point. This has the benefit that a request for bandwidth never has to ask for an allocation that is higher than that specified in any previous such request. In systems that switch between streams of different degrees compression. the switching points can with advantage be chosen to coincide with the inter-chunk boundaries.